

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Virgil Peck, Jr. at 3:30 on March 10th, 2011, in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Aaron Klaassen, Fiscal Analyst
Daniel Yoza, Assistant Revisor
Jeannie Dillon, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Bill Otto
Representative Bob Bethell
Mary Jane Stankiewicz, COO and Senior Vice President, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Asn.
Doug Jorgensen, Acting State Fire Marshal
Dennis Phillips, Council of Fire Fighters

Daniel Yoza, Assistant Revisor, briefed the Committee on **HB 2370**. After questions by the Committee, the Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2370 - Abolishing the office of the state fire marshal and transferring the duties and functions thereof to the division of facilities management, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the division of emergency management.**

Representative Bill Otto (Attachment 1) spoke as a proponent to the bill stating that very few people have died as a result of school fires.

Representative Bob Bethell (Attachment 2) gave testimony before the committee in support of **HB 2370** stating that in past years the qualifications of the person appointed by the Governor to become the Fire Marshal has been suspect. He further stated that this bill is more drastic than those proposed in the past and in reality dismantles the agency by splitting it into three other agencies.

Mary Jane Stankiewicz COO and Senior Vice President, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Asn., (Attachment 3) gave testimony regarding **HB 2370**. She proposed that a more efficient and effective solution was to transfer the propane section from the fire marshal's office to the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Doug Jorgensen, Acting State Fire Marshal (Attachment 4) came before the committee on behalf of the State Fire Marshall's Office, its employees, and the citizens of the State of Kansas, providing neutral/logistical testimony with regard to **HB 2370**.

Dennis Phillips, representing the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters, (Attachment 5) gave testimony before the committee as an opponent of **HB 2370**. He told the committee that the Fire marshal's office has been a vital part of the Fire Service in Kansas for over 100 years and that many rural fire departments depend in their services.

Written Testimony was submitted by the following:

Dave Hutchinson, Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation – Neutral (Attachment 6)
Lee Tafanelli, Adjutant General – Neutral (Attachment 7)
Jack Taylor, President, Kansas Professional Fire Chiefs Asn.- Opponent (Attachment 8)
Robert McLemore, President, Kansas State Asn. of Fire Chiefs - Opponent (Attachment 9)

Chairman Peck closed the hearing on **HB 2370**.

The Committee entered into discussion and recommendations on the budget of the Kansas Department of Transportation. Without objection, the committee report was accepted.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 3:30 pm.